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to talk about Stalin, instead of listening to the Kremlin propaganda machine.

3. It is reasonable to expect that Stalin's death would not be announced until the Politburo had decided upon the form and content of Stalin's political testament or its equivalent. His successors, in other words, will want it to appear that Stalin's will and actual direction are to continue to rule supreme, even after his death. This method of passing on the legacy of autocrats is not unknown. The "testament" becomes a powerful instrument in the hands of successors who wish to perpetuate the authority of the deceased. This is particularly true in nations where servility and superstitious adherence to the regime or its ideals pervades.

4. Stalin's anticipated testament, or "his last words," should be items of serious consideration in this preliminary planning. Some efforts should be devoted to a plan for the exploitation of this means of continuing the Stalin rule.

5. In Russian history, as elsewhere, rumors were frequently circulated that the autocrat was still alive, even after the funeral and a public display of the remains. This type of rumor is almost a fad in the USSR. For this reason, the extensively advertised funerals of top Soviet leaders have been interpreted as an effort by the Politburo to convince the masses that such leaders actually are dead (and not in prison or Siberia). A similar circus-like and medieval display probably will be arranged for Stalin. However, strategically spread rumors that Stalin is alive or that he has actually communicated with the outside world, may have serious repercussions to the stability of his successor. In the past, Russia has had revolutions and prolonged periods of trouble because of such rumors.

6. Moscow's present pro-consuls, who are running the Satellite countries, should become a propaganda target upon Stalin's death. Stalin's name, among the population of the Satellites, is evil, and our propaganda should point out that he has been the main supporter of the present puppets. In the same spirit, a propaganda line should be taken to the effect that Stalin's policy of colonization and exploitation has been opposed generally by other members of the Soviet Politburo.

7. Top military officers of Soviet occupation troops and missions abroad should be convinced on Stalin's death that unless

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they return home at once, they will be purged or penalized.
Soviet Army personnel should be encouraged by rumors, circulars,
etc., to leave their posts of occupation. False orders could

cessful, might result in disorganization and desertion among
occupation troops, a condition which could have serious effects
on Soviet intransigence in the cold war.

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Chief, Political Action Division

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PAD-1/AK/vt

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